

Wireless E911 Grant Program

Another example of an enhancement to infrastructure and the improvement of service to Wisconsin citizens is the implementation of an enhanced wireless 911 system. In 2005, the Commission implemented a three-year grant program created by 2003 Wisconsin Act 48 to reimburse local governments and wireless telecommunications service providers for certain costs they will incur to establish this enhanced wireless 911 service (E911). Enhanced wireless 911 service routes a wireless 911 call over a dedicated network, independent of the public switched network, and automatically reports the name and telephone number corresponding to the calling party's wireless telephone to the call taker at the public safety answering point. Most importantly, the enhanced wireless 911 service also reports the location of the calling party by geographic grid coordinates.

On April 1, 2005, as part of the implementation process, 9 wireless providers and 68 Wisconsin counties requested grants from the Wireless 911 fund. On November 16, 2005, the Commission awarded \$48,077,917.40 in grants to the wireless providers and \$30,357,596.38 in grants to the 68 counties. The Commission also approved a monthly surcharge of 83 cents on each wireless telephone number billed in the state to collect the money that will be paid out in grants. A breakdown of the grant amounts awarded to each requesting county is provided in Table I.

Wireless 911 Grant Awards by County¹¹

Adams	\$ 264,392.55	Marathon	\$ 262,950.85
Ashland	\$ 225,336.11	Marinette	\$ 319,818.99
Barron	\$ 229,769.00	Marquette	\$ 177,359.87
Bayfield	\$ 391,608.09	Milwaukee	\$5,194,743.93
Brown	\$ 890,199.10	Monroe	\$ 324,073.87
Buffalo	\$ 386,357.94	Oconto	\$ 365,567.75
Burnett	\$ 221,259.25	Oneida	\$ 354,217.96
Calumet	\$ 312,416.16	Outagamie	\$ 666,141.61
Chippewa	\$ 354,074.63	Ozaukee	\$ 521,184.83
Clark	\$ 291,592.20	Pepin	\$ 112,955.00
Columbia	\$ 388,549.56	Peirce	\$ 224,333.95
Crawford	\$ 225,784.32	Polk	\$ 326,968.43

¹¹ The final grant amounts will be determined after information related to some conditional grant awards is filed and the Commission addresses some appeals to its initial grant decisions.

Dane	\$1,167,237.91	Portage	\$ 308,974.39
Dodge	\$ 823,862.49	Price	\$ 184,744.00
Door	\$ 213,127.13	Racine	\$ 417,409.91
Douglas	\$ 399,278.28	Richland	\$ 145,174.92
Dunn	\$ 500,789.36	Rock	\$1,110,411.41
Eau Claire	\$ 555,601.18	Rusk	\$ 136,007.30
Florence	\$ 68,531.38	Sauk	\$ 461,089.71
Fond du Lac	\$ 722,903.50	Sawyer	\$ 75,709.65
Forest	\$ 85,164.00	Shawano	\$ 191,264.27
Grant	\$ 230,379.11	Sheboygan	\$ 411,406.73
Green	\$ 325,957.50	St. Croix	\$ 324,550.29
Green Lake	\$ 188,711.11	Trempealeau	\$ 613,639.06
Iowa	\$ 229,349.70	Vernon	\$ 327,816.45
Jackson	\$ 49,801.70	Vilas	\$ 327,603.77
Jefferson	\$ 290,561.74	Walworth	\$ 434,037.89
Kenosha	\$ 667,748.89	Washburn	\$ 175,106.47
Kewaunee	\$ 57,753.04	Washington	\$ 451,345.68
La Crosse	\$ 520,805.14	Waukesha	\$1,478,820.06
Lafayette	\$ 152,289.73	Waupaca	\$ 153,480.96
Langlade	\$ 97,221.10	Waushara	\$ 148,336.69
Lincoln	\$ 452,891.68	Winnebago	\$ 702,312.96
Manitowoc	\$ 662,651.35	Wood	\$ 284,081.04

Table I

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Source: PSC Staff

The wireless E911 implementation will be deployed in two phases. Phase I equipment deployment will provide to the 911 answering point the location of the active antenna for the wireless 911 call. Phase II equipment deployment will provide to the emergency operators a more precise location of the calling party by latitude and longitude coordinates. In general, the counties receiving grants will deploy Wireless E911 equipment in 2006 and 2007, although in some areas E911 has already been placed into service.

Two recent events demonstrate the value of this service. On December 13, 2005, the Green Bay Press Gazette reported that a 39-year-old Howard man lost control of his snowmobile on the ice and flipped over. The man told the 911 call taker that he was east of Duck Creek on the bay. Dispatchers were able to use the coordinates from the man's wireless telephone to determine he was actually 1 ½ miles north of the creek and 300 feet from shore, and then dispatched a rescue crew to the accident site.

The following day, December 14, the Appleton Post-Crescent reported that the enhanced wireless 911 technology was instrumental in the rescue of a Chilton woman. The woman and her 13-year-old daughter were driving in rural Calumet County when the woman had a seizure. The daughter was able to call 911 from a cell phone, but did not know her location except that she was on a highway headed to Neenah. The dispatchers used the coordinates from the wireless

telephone to locate the vehicle on Hwy. 114, west of Hilbert, WI. First responders and an ambulance were dispatched to the location, and they transported the woman to Calumet Medical Center in Chilton.

As E911 is further deployed and activated, citizens and travelers in the state will have an enhanced availability of emergency assistance because of the location capabilities that will be available due to this program.

Further Q & A's regarding the Wireless E911 program is also available on the PSC web site at: <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/faq%27s/tele/teleFAQ-index.htm>